

Chief Phillips began his career with the fire department in 1974, when he became a firefighter. He later became a paramedic, and then went on to be a fire engineer. With hard work he was promoted to fire chief in 1999.

Chief Phillips has also been very active in his community, serving as Vice Chair of the Governing Board at Garden Grove Hospital. He has also been involved with the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the National Fire Protection Agency.

Chief Phillips has dedicated his life to serving his community and putting his life at risk to save others. I wish him well in his retirement.

PUBLIC HEALTH

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support legislation I am introducing today that will improve the public health of communities throughout America, make worksites safer for thousands of corrections officers and staff, and help to improve the health of inmates in correctional facilities.

Every year, more than 11 million people are released from prisons and jails across America, growing numbers of which suffer disproportionately from mental illness, substance abuse, and communicable diseases, such as HIV, hepatitis and tuberculosis.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, infectious diseases are more prevalent among correctional inmates than the general population. For AIDS, the prevalence among inmates is 5 times that of the general population. Tuberculosis infection rates are substantially higher among inmates, with estimates from 4 to 17 times higher. And the prevalence of hepatitis C among inmates is 9 to 10 times higher than that of the general population.

The health care needs of inmates have expanded as the incarcerated population has aged, succumbing to the same ailments that afflict the elderly in the outside world—such as diabetes, hypertension, and stroke.

It is a sad reflection of the inadequate health care system in America that many times inmates receive health care for the first time after they enter correctional facilities. Indeed, it is likely that the majority of inmates with communicable diseases entered correctional systems already infected. Having millions of inmates with serious communicable diseases threatens the health and lives of thousands of dedicated corrections officers and all who work in correctional facilities, as well as the rest of the prison population as well. Most inmates are released after they've served their time. Upon release, the threat to public health becomes clear, as inmates return to live and work in our communities. There is no doubt that correctional facilities play a key role in the battle against the spread of disease.

The challenge faced by correctional facilities is enormous. In an era of shrinking resources, corrections staff are called upon to do more with less. My bill is intended to assist them in this challenge.

To respond to this critical need, I am introducing legislation which would establish an Of-

fice of Correctional Health within the Department of Health and Human Services and would setup a program for States to combat hepatitis in correctional facilities. The proposed office would coordinate all correctional health programs within HHS; provide technical support to State and local correctional agencies on correctional health; cooperate with other Federal agencies carrying out correctional health programs to ensure coordination; and provide outreach and facilitate information exchange regarding correctional health activities.

As a result of discussions with a broad range of groups about the need to combat hepatitis, the bill that I am introducing will include a program to provide matching grants to States for the screening, immunization, and treatment of hepatitis A, B, and C in correctional facilities. This new program is based on recommendations in a report published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention entitled, *Prevention and Control of Infections with Hepatitis Viruses in Correctional Settings*. States will have flexibility in this program to screen, treat, or immunize inmates or employees.

The public health implications from joining this battle are clear. If we give corrections professionals the tools and resources they need to identify, treat, and prevent communicable disease, we protect those who reside both behind bars and beyond the gates.

I urge my colleagues to support this important public health measure.

LEGISLATION TO DEFER THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX ON MUTUAL FUND INVESTORS UNTIL SHARES ARE SOLD

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, millions of working Americans depend on mutual funds to invest and save for their future. Fund investors are overwhelmingly middle-income families and individuals who are investing for the long term and mutual funds provide an ideal way for smaller investors to invest in the U.S. economy. Easing the burden to invest and increasing the opportunities for these investors to put more into their portfolios is especially critical now given the nation's current economic health.

Because mutual funds are primarily used for long-term investments, many fund investors are understandably frustrated by a tax rule that forces them to pay tax on capital gains before they sell their shares in the fund. To further their long-term savings and investment goals, fund investors typically choose to have any capital gains distributions, which they would otherwise receive from the fund, automatically reinvested in the fund. Nevertheless, under current tax law, these fund investors are required to pay tax on such amounts even though they took no action to trigger those gains and their investment dollars remain in the fund. As widely reported in the press, fund investors find this tax rule inconsistent with both the long-term nature of their investment and their understanding of how investments are taxed.

This tax problem would be solved with my legislation by permitting fund investors to defer tax on mutual fund capital gain distributions that are automatically reinvested in the fund. These gains would be taxed when the investors sell their shares in the fund. Postponing the capital gains tax until the fund investor decides to sell his or her shares in the fund is consistent with the basic philosophy that a capital gains tax on an investment is not due until you sell the investment. This is the way an investor who holds stock directly is taxed.

Deferring capital gains tax on mutual fund investors until they sell their fund shares will promote savings by middle-income investors. Adoption of this approach will permit those savings to grow more rapidly and remain invested in America's economy as intended by the fund investors.

My bill will promote personal savings and investment in the national economy by changing tax rules to reflect the continuing nature of the shareholder's investment in the fund.

FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues an essay written by fellow Kansan, Christina Lachut. Ms. Lachut, from Fort Riley, Kansas, is this year's Kansas winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Scholarship Contest. I am very proud of Ms. Lachut and her accomplishment.

FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION

(By Christina Lachut)

Freedom. The very thought of it conjures visions of blue skies, soaring eagles, and star spangled banners fluttering in the breeze. However, every Veterans' Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and now Patriot Day, we are reminded of the many lives sacrificed at "Freedom's altar." Freedom's altar lies not in a single land, but across many, from the fields of Gettysburg to Flanders field, from Pearl Harbor to the Mekong Delta, from the sands of Iraq to the hills of the Balkans, and from the streets of New York City to the rocks of Afghanistan. In every land where an American in Freedom's name falls, a lighthouse of hope is raised. Yes, one can easily see that our liberties as Americans are not without a price. This American freedom is not as much a right as it is an obligation; an obligation to be a torch of freedom and justice to every dark shore our nation beholds.

Even in its birth, our country inspired other peoples in far away lands to begin their pursuit of the ideals our Founding Fathers themselves sought. As our nation matured, it fought its own battles into adulthood and came to more fully realize the breadth of the concept of the Freedom it embraced: the state of being fully without bonds and lawfully equal to all people regardless of color, heritage, gender, ability, or belief. As an individual, each has a responsibility to help preserve another's freedom, and not to aid in impeding it. As well as to

the individual, this concept of responsibility must be applied to the nation as a whole.

Prior to the Second World War, the United States tried to remain isolated from the conflicts that engulfed Europe. The United States only joined these wars after it was impossible to do otherwise. Little by little, though, our country has learned to heed the warning presented by Martin Luther King Jr. that, "A threat to freedom anywhere is a threat to freedom everywhere." Freedom and oppression simply cannot coexist.

Why, though, are Americans now so willing to fight for such an abstract idea as freedom? Perhaps it is because we have beheld the horrors of the Holocaust, the terror of the Khmer Rouge, and the stranglehold of the Taliban. This loyalty to freedom, though, lies more likely in the essence of the American spirit, that every-gnawing hunger for fairness, justice, and the righteousness of the Golden Rule. A long line of Americans fighting on foreign soil have justified the war to themselves by reasoning that they have liberty because someone they never knew paid the price for it, and it is only fair that they, in their state of freedom, be willing to do the same for another.

It is our duty, as partakers of freedom in this part of the world, to be defenders of freedom throughout the world. Abraham Lincoln stated this obligation best when he surmised; "In giving freedom to the slave we assure freedom to the free, honorable alike in what we give and what we preserve." By the freedom that has made our own nation great, we must humble ourselves, and share the wealth with which we have been so mightily blessed.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF FATHER WILLIAM GULAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Father William Gulas, beloved Pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish in Slavic Village and beloved mentor, leader and friend of many.

For nearly a decade, Father Gulas gently led his flock at St. Stanislaus Parish, offering spiritual and emotional guidance to every parishioner. Moreover, Father Gulas reached out, with caring and compassion, to residents of Slavic Village and neighborhoods beyond, providing a helping hand or kind counsel whenever needed. Father Gulas was ordained as a Franciscan priest in 1961. He was head of the Franciscan Order for the Assumption Province, which spans several states, including Ohio. His service to our Cleveland community began in 1993, when he joined the parish of St. Stan's as pastor. Reflecting a strong desire to connect with parishioners, Father Gulas learned to speak Polish to be able to communicate with every parishioner.

Father Gulas was an articulate and graceful liturgist. His sense of timing and wit, combined with his kindness and warmth, defined his ministry. Father Gulas leaves behind a rich legacy of a life dedicated to spiritual guidance, leadership, and helping others. For our Cleveland community, Father Gulas leaves behind a legacy of healing and uplifting our Slavic Village neighborhood, which radiates throughout his congregation, and resounds throughout our entire community. Father Gulas was instrumental in the renovation of the historic St.

Stanislaus church. His dedication to restoring this magnificent, century-old structure equaled his dedication and success in restoring the heart and soul of this Cleveland neighborhood—one struggling family at a time, one lonely neighbor at a time, one troubled child at a time.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join us in tribute and remembrance of Father William Gulas, whose compassion, understanding and inspiration, through his words and his deeds, kept hope and faith alive in everyone he knew. His presence among us was a gift, and he will be deeply missed by the countless lives he touched, including ours. We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Father Gulas, to the parishioners of St. Stanislaus, and to the entire Slavic Village community. Throughout his tenure along Fleet Avenue, Father Gulas was deeply committed to helping those in need—young and old, black and white, believers and non-believers. Father Gulas was a living light for everyone in this community, and as deeply as he loved the people of Slavic Village, they in turn, loved him. Most significantly, the love and light that Father Gulas gave so freely to the people of St. Stanislaus and streets beyond, will be a guiding force within our community always, and will live within our hearts forever.

INTRODUCING THE FILIPINO VETERANS FAIRNESS ACT

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act in commemoration of Corregidor Day, and all the Filipino veterans who fought against the Japanese Imperial Forces in defense of America.

Sixty-one years ago today, in the island fortress of Corregidor, Philippines, approximately 15,000 American and Filipino troops fought the four-months long resistance against the Japanese forces.

In the early days of World War II, these Filipinos fought alongside Americans as they were battered by constant shellfire and aerial bombardment.

Corregidor Day evokes memories of how these valiant soldiers disrupted the Japanese conquest of the South Pacific, allowing valuable time for the United States to recover from Japan's initial onslaught.

After the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, they also attacked and defeated Hong Kong and Singapore, our allies in the war. The one bright spot in those dark days was in the Philippine Islands where Americans and Filipinos made a stand in Bataan, Corregidor and the southern islands of the Philippines.

At the conclusion of World War II, there were more than 400,000 Filipino veterans. Only 50,000 Filipino veterans are living today and approximately 13,000 of them reside in the United States.

I pay tribute to these magnificent Filipino soldiers, loyal and dedicated to the war effort, who distinguished themselves in the four months of combat. With their fiber helmets and canvas shoes, they were armed with little more than personal courage. These valiant

men deserve no less than recognition of their military service and fairness under the law.

Proper recognition and honor of the military service of these Filipino veterans is long overdue. I ask my colleagues to remember Corregidor and to support the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act. My bill mirrors Senator DANIEL INOUE's S. 68 and also guarantees Filipino veterans' representation in the Center for Minority Veterans, and ensures they receive the same social benefits like education, housing loans, vocational rehabilitation and job counseling as available to the American soldiers with whom they fought side by side in Corregidor.

FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Delegate Joanne C. Benson—a woman of integrity, principle, love and passion for helping others. As a Member of the Maryland State House of Delegates since 1991 and an educator in the Prince George's County School System for forty years, Joanne Benson has touched the lives of thousands in her service to people. On this very special occasion of celebrating her retirement we must all give great thanks for the difference she has made in carrying out her life's work.

Having known this extraordinary woman for all my years of public service, I have seen first hand her compassion and unfailing love for children, family and community. Her motto, "If not now, when? If not us, who?" exemplifies her tireless efforts in being a voice for the voiceless, a power for the powerless and a fighter for those who have given up the fight.

Born in Roanoke, Virginia, the daughter of Reverend and Mrs. William Claybon, she is one of six children. After graduating from South Hagerstown High School, she received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Bowie State University and later achieved a Master of Arts Degree from Catholic University. Her career in education began as a teacher in Calvert County and soon thereafter she began to work for the Prince George's County School System, where over the years she has served in a number of capacities including teacher/facilitator, master teacher, instructional support specialist, human relations specialist, Principal and parent involvement specialist. And throughout this long tenure there is one thing she has always been—one of the strongest and most ardent activists for improving the quality of life and the quality of education for our children.

Joanne is a caring individual. Story after story can be told of her purchasing shoes and coats for children in need; bringing food to a hungry family; accessing free health and dental care for children; and finding shelter for the homeless. It was her work while she was Principal of John H. Bayne Elementary School that started the first after-school program in which teachers, parents and community leaders volunteered to work. She began a clothes closet and food pantry and started adult education classes for parents. And she was an early advocate of school uniforms, recognizing that if a child looks good, they feel good.